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# The U. T. Rating Bulletin

1924

To All Lovers of Truth, the Beautiful:

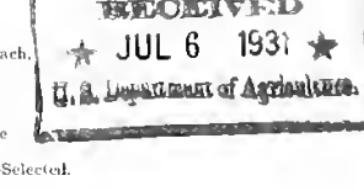
I know that more than usual pleasure will be derived from this report because of the number of Irises released that are an absolutely safe and sound investment in great beauty. Knowing this, will create a serene confidence that every one added to your collection of treasures will enrich it to a great extent. Iris lovers have been awaiting this event. And now the opportunity has come to acquire Irises of such miraculous beauty that they again and again appear to radiate a reflection of the perfection of the all highest beauty, so much so, that one can only gaze upon them in silent admiration.

Therefore, why let mere lucre stand in the way of securing some of these wonderful subjects? Let loose and gratify that longing desire. Regardless of how much you need strain your purse and sacrifice, your reward will come in possessing an Iris which is designated as a master variety by H. W. GROSCHNER.

September 1st, 1924.

## RING TRUE.

You're what you ain't,  
Jest' be what you is,  
If you is not what you am,  
Then you am not what you is,  
If you're just a little tad-pole,  
Don't try to be frog,  
If you're just the tail,  
Don't try to wag the dog.  
You can always pass the plate,  
If you can't extort and preach,  
If you're just a little pebble,  
Don't try and be the beach.  
Don't be what you ain't  
Just' be what you is,  
For the man who plays it square  
Is a-going to get "his."



—Selected.

## Ideal Master List

97. ANN PAGE. The most magnificent Iris in commerce today. If you would desire to own a flower that reflects the greatness of the Firmament in its plainness, clearness and purity of color, look up at the sky, and buy A. P. Even if you have to borrow the money. Worth \$25.00.
95. LADY FOSTER. Similar to A. P. Has the same large white throat that makes both of these varieties outstanding, large flower. Should be in all fine collections if A. P. cannot be afforded.
96. BALLERINE. Next to A. P. The finest light blue Iris. A silvery sheen gives it such magnificence that it is beyond description.
90. MOTHER OF PEARL. A real pearl of an Iris; well named. A rival of Queen Caterina, but its color is quite distinct, in a lighter, refined delicacy of tint. Borrow more money to secure this Iris.
90. YVONNE PELLETIER. One of the most underrated Irises, self color of great beauty. Same shade of pure light blue as the falls of Chester Hunt, but more refined and no marks of other color. Flowers half again as large as C. H., so it counts he small. Take H. W. Groschner's word for it, that this sort is extra fine. Worth \$5.00.
95. ANNA FARR. On account of its low price the best Iris buy today; buy more than one. Of such daintiness and charm that it is the crowned Fairy Queen of all Iris gardens.
92. LE VERRIER. A remarkable fine shade of darker pink that has long been needed, a large white throat makes it a striking variety. Worth \$10.00.
89. KASHMIR WHITE. So much larger and finer than any other pure white that they are insignificant by comparison. An awfully slow grower and small rhizomes. Low price allows you to buy two or three roots to offset its slow increase. Give a good start to keep ahead of the game.
90. MAGNIFICA. After the excitement dies down it will be conceded that its enormous size attracts more than its color and then the rating of this floppy thing will drop down to 90 or below where it belongs.
88. J. B. DUMAS. Quite a good sized rose pink and the only Iris of this color that I know that is much superior to May Queen, and that is saying something.
90. CATERINA. Similar to Queen Caterina and sometimes almost as fine a color. Has the sweetest fragrance of any Iris I know and should be in all collections for this reason. Why not get enough of such a fragrant Iris by buying several or a half a dozen. On account of its delicious fragrance it will become one of the most popular Irises.
89. GEORGIA. A rival of Dream as the finest pink Iris.
86. SEMINOLE. Superior to Opera on account of its brighter red color, larger flower and longer stem.
90. ZUA. I would rate this variety high for its season without any hesitation. Later blooms are admired in competition with mid-season sorts—positive proof of its distinctness and charm. If this Iris were an imported variety its rating would be way up to G. First year blooms small—but wait. Give it a chance!
85. GERTRUDE (True Peterson variety). The most underrated Iris in the world, which again proves some of the jurors incompetence. Quite early, good to fine shade of clear dark blue, not quite as fine as Mirambla, but on account of its earliness should be in all collections if M. cannot be afforded. 85 for its season.
87. KING OF IRIS. This variety is still King. Some of its would-be rivals have far brighter yellow standards, but I do not know of a single one that has the wide border of gold on the standards that King has. Belongs in the finest dozen when it comes good.
87. ISOLINE. Still holds its own as one of the finest.
89. LEWIS TROWBRIDGE. A rival of Brandywine as Farr's finest blue. Just a suggestion of rose on the standards gives it great charm. Far more beautiful than many, many imported varieties.
85. MT. PENN. A good to fine shade of darker pink that at a distance looks red.
87. QUAKER LADY. Has rivals, but they are not Quaker Lady. A word to the wise, etc.
86. EDOUARD MICHELL. Holds its own as at least one of the very finest claret reds.
90. MADAM DURAND. Extra choice sort worth the money.
86. MADAM CHERAU is still Mailam.
83. EDWIN C. SHAW. With the possible exception of Magnificent, the color of this variety is the very finest of Fryer's seedlings. So bright and gay that it is striking. As a dwarf variety it leads all others. Far finer than Marsh Marigold, and finer than Aragon and Valery Mayet. Medium stem keeps its rating down.
87. LEDA (Fine variety.) Do not confuse this gem with Farr's Leda, there is no comparison. This fine Leda is the finest pink frilled Iris and could be called a pink M. Cherau.

### Note

All above 85 are masters.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT CATERINA

Several growers have complained to me that plants of this variety and others obtained from California have sulked for years until they became acclimated. Another grower claims that Irises from irrigated regions will not do well in colder sections. The Moral is, Be wary of California-grown Irises, at least those grown under irrigation.

Last Fall I obtained a supply of acclimated plants of Caterina; some bloomed this season and have thrived as well as other Irises.

Caterina, Lady Foster and others that are little tender should be grown in a sheltered location or in close proximity to a building—east or south side preferred—and given the sand treatment.

## THE SAND TREATMENT

Experience has proven that Irises grown in sand are much more free from attacks of rot. Except soil that is already sandy, spread clean sand four or five inches deep where planting is done, and an attack of rot will be reduced to a minimum.

## WORTH WHILE

I have often heard of persons who delayed the purchase of some things, wearing apparel, etc., in order to first buy some extra choice plant or flower, but the limit was reached when a woman in a nearby town actually traded an automobile for an extra fine collection of Peonies. Well, hats, pumps, frocks and gowns and autos soon wear out, but Irises and Peonies grow on forever, a constant source of beauty to reward one always, for waiting a little longer to buy things that can wait.

"Spend all you have for loveliness,  
Buy it and count not the cost."

## I2 Best Buys at a Moderate Price

Anna Farr, Ed. Michell, Caterina, Queen Caterina, Lady Foster, Ballerine, J. B. Dumas, Yvonne Pelletier, Kashmir White, Seminole, Georgia, Kathryn Fryer, Le Verrier, Magnifica.

## VERY LATE BLOOMERS

The following Irises would be desired by some to extend the blooming season, they look fair or good after most sorts are gone.

Ambassadeur, Massasoit, Tristram, Virginia Moore, Cordelia, Violacea Grandiflora, Monsignor and Paxatawney.

## THE LIGHT IS DAWNING!

The truth is beginning to filter into many minds that Ambassadeur is a dull-colored Iris. Listen! One grower says he sometimes thinks that Valery Mayet has more life to its color than the Ambassadeur. NO THINKING ABOUT IT! There IS more life to the coloration of Valery Mayet and even if it has a stem of only medium length, I would prefer it because its color depicts life and action—AND NOT DEAD COLOR! Ambassadeur is famous because it is the most overrated Iris in the world and that is The Unvarnished Truth!

## A SURE WINNER

Argynnis will be the name of a fine new Williamson seedling that will be introduced next season.

## TENTATIVE RATINGS

Only varieties that rate at least 75 are rated, except a few that are much talked about. In a year or two when final decisions are given, some sorts might have the same ratings, others will be higher or lower.

88 Angele	86 Canopus	88 Titan
88 Aphodite	89 Morwell	80 Phyllis Bliss
88 Asia	88 Moa	78 Dalilia
88 Brandywine	73 Isis	76 Rosa Alba
80 Benbow	84 Clamour	88 Viking

## TENTATIVE OPINIONS

The following varieties have been under observation two or three years and of some my conclusions are final.

78 Treost was a miserable color this season, never will be better than an odd sort.

75 Sweet Lavender, nothing sweet about it, just the opposite.

80 Sunset. More curious than beautiful.

80 Prospere. Its color is neither clear or pure, hazy coloration.

80 Opera. Rich color, but flower is small and short or medium stem.

78 Romeo. A fair odd sort, small flowers.

000 Zwanenburg. A mere curiosity.

000 Sea Gull. "Nothing to it."

000 Cecil Minturn. Looks like a stinger!

000 May Rose looks like a stinger!

80 Pink Pearl. Fine pink, but flowers too small.

00 Petite Vitry. Stinger!

0 Virginia Moore. Stinger!

White Queen. Hardly an improvement on White Knight.

Silver Mist. Looks good.

Saphire. Looks good.

Roseway. Stinger!

## Revised Symposium Ratings.

My revisions can be relied upon as being far more correct. Varieties that are off only a few points either way are not included.

Underrated fine to extra fine varieties .....

55

Underrated Dwarf Bearded .....

4

Overrated varieties .....

10

Total..... 69

## Allowance

Allowing 19 varieties for my mistakes, incompetence, lack of judgment, poor taste, immature opinions, or not qualified to judge, and ignorance, would leave an even fifty incorrectly rated.

## Concessions

Even most growers will concede that of the 1400 varieties voted on in the Iris Symposium, all but 200 could be discarded. My private opinion is that all but 100 would be much better. My findings would find that one-fourth are incorrectly rated, to say the least. This would not be so bad if it were not for the glaring mistakes made.

## Think!

Of rating a dark colored flower the highest in quality. Has any other flower society ever done this?

## Think Again

Has any other flower Society ever rated the old timers so low, that it would appear to beginners that they were not desirable?

## Again and Again

The fact that some of the most magnificent Irises in existence were considerably, and a few way underrated, cannot be excused.

## Worse and Worse

The further fact that such sombre, lifeless and mediocre sorts as Lent A. Williamson, Alcazar, Ambassadeur, Crimsón King, and Opera were scored ahead of such chaste, lovely, magnificent, noble and beautiful varieties as Kashmir White, Anna Farr, Ann Page, Lady Foster, Isoline and Madam Durand would make one wonder what kind of experts some of the jurymen were.

## Foist and Foist, Palm and Palm, and Sting and Sting!

That is what the bunch is trying to do in their brazen attempt to thrust such a botch upon a confiding public for five years, thinking that time will cover up their tracts.

## "Stabbing Around"

Unless the fact is recognized that the character and express meaning of a color has more or less bearing or influence in determining the quality of Iris blooms the jurors will keep on stabbing around.

## What Is the Verdict

Of my findings upon the Iris situation to date.

## PLEASE

Rely largely upon the taste, discernment and honesty of judgment of H. W. Groschner,

## MY IDEAL

My Ideal is higher,  
Higher and ever higher,

Unless your thoughts conform with mine,

You will never catch up with me.

H. W. G.

